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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
Routing Slip

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary

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Executive Registry

81-1517

16 June 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Public Affairs

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Media Requests

1. I would suggest that requests for briefings be declined on some basis other than that we do not provide briefings, because we do where it is to our advantage to do so. I think the response should be varied to the situation, i.e., we can't undertake that, we can't afford that much time, we can't put the information together readily, sorry we have to decline, or whatever, rather than enunciating a general policy which does not reflect what we are actually doing.

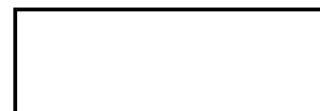
2. It is too late now, but as you will see from the attached story from today's NEW YORK DAILY NEWS, Mr. Roura should have been told that it is not true that I talked for several minutes before discovering I had been talking to Senator Robert Byrd. What happened was that I immediately discovered that it was not Harry Byrd's voice on the other end of the line and I said, "Is this Harry Byrd of Virginia?", whereupon Robert Byrd said, "It is Senator Byrd from West Virginia." I said I was sorry, but that I had been trying to reach Harry Byrd. I went on to say to him that I had wanted to pay a courtesy call from the time of my confirmation hearings on Senator Baker but that his time did not permit it. Senator Byrd said he would like me to stop by sometime. That is as close as it came to discussing the Middle East.

25X1



for William J. Casey

cc: DDCI



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THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS - June 16, 1981

People

By PHIL ROURA and TOM POSTER

Top spy was watching the wrong birdie?

They're giving CIA Director Bill Casey the bird these days. It's because Casey chirped some "for your ears only" news to the wrong guy during a telephone conversation last week, says a source.

According to one of our super sleuths, the nation's top spy had been asked by the White House to give some special attention to Sen. Harry Byrd of Virginia, who, although listed as an independent, tends to list toward the right. So Casey called him up to fill him in on some inside info from the Middle East.

At least, Bill thought it was Harry. According to our source, Casey chatted for about 15 minutes before he emphasized that the talk should be kept in strictest

confidence, especially from those sneaky Democrats.

Do you know whom you're talking to, asked the party on the other side of the phone? Sure, said Casey. Sen. Harry Byrd.

Well, Casey had a Byrd, all right. But it wasn't Harry. Instead, he'd been plugged into Sen. Robert Byrd of West Virginia, who happens to lead the Dems.

Casey quickly apologized and hung up the phone. When we checked yesterday with CIA headquarters, an aide said stiffly: "We don't comment on that sort of thing." And Sen. Byrd's office—Robert, that is—insisted that the chat lasted only a few moments. But we hear different. How? A little byrdie told us.